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PROCEEDINGS OF THE NINTH CLASSICAL CONFERENCE  
HELD AT ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN, MARCH  
26 AND 27.

THE Ninth Classical Conference was held at Ann Arbor, Mich., on Thursday and Friday, March 26 and 27, in connection with the annual meeting of the Michigan Schoolmasters' Club. There were three sessions. The first was held on Thursday forenoon, in the lecture-room of the University Museum; the presiding officer was Professor Francis W. Kelsey, of the University of Michigan. The second session was held in Newberry Hall, Thursday afternoon, and was in charge of Professor W. G. Manly, of the University of Missouri. Professor Martin L. D'Ooge, of the University of Michigan, was the presiding officer of the third session, which was held on Friday afternoon in the Museum.

Friday forenoon the members of the conference were invited to attend a general session of the Schoolmasters' Club, in Newberry Hall. At the close of the afternoon session, at 5 o'clock, an invitation was extended to all to listen to a recital in University Hall, by members of the faculty of the University School of Music; the artists who took part were William Hofmann, violinist; Earle Killeen, barytone; and Llewellyn L. Renwick, who gave several selections upon the Columbian organ. On Friday evening, by the courtesy of the Michigan Academy of Science and the Schoolmasters' Club, the members of the conference had the opportunity of hearing an illustrated lecture by Professor Israel C. Russell, on "The Volcanoes of Martinique," in University Hall.

The attendance at the conference was larger than usual. The number of papers, however, was somewhat smaller than last year; four of those who had places on the program were unable to appear, on account of sickness. The whole number of papers read was seventeen; of these seven (Nos. 1, 2, 7, 13, 14, 15, 17) were illustrated by the stereopticon. The subjects treated were as follows:

1. "In the Footsteps of Cæsar in Gaul—The Battle with the Helvetii, and the Siege of Alesia," by Principal George R. Swain, High School, Bay City, Mich.

This paper, illustrated by sixty stereopticon slides made from negatives taken by Principal Swain, was presented at the Classical Conference last year (see the *SCHOOL REVIEW*, Vol. X, pp. 392-4), and was repeated, by request, at 8 o'clock Thursday morning. Notwithstanding the early hour, a large audience was present to hear the paper.

2. "An Unpublished Bust of the Scipio Type," by Professor Walter Dennison, University of Michigan.

The bust discussed by Professor Dennison was purchased in Rome in 1880 by Dr. Joseph Cook of Boston; it was inspected, before purchasing, by several experts—among them the sculptor Story—who pronounced it genuine. After the death of Dr. Cook it was presented by his widow to Oberlin College, in whose possession it now is. Professor Dennison analyzed the somewhat meager evidence which has been brought forward to identify the type as the portrait of the famous Scipio, and showed stereopticon slides of the Oberlin bust as well as of other representatives of the type. The paper will be published in full later.

3. "Some Phases of Sacrifice among the Ancient Greeks," by Professor G. A. Peckham, Hiram College.

In our study of sacrifice among the ancient Greeks our chief source of information is their own rich literature. But the translations of the oriental sacred books and a study of the world's religions have furnished much valuable illustrative material. Several theories have been advanced to explain the origin of sacrifice; for example, (1) the gift theory, (2) that of an expiatory offering, and (3) that of a communion of worshipers with one another and with the deity. Whatever the original meaning may have been, all three of these ideas find ample illustration in our field.

The following points of interest in the sacrifices of the Homeric poems were noted for brief discussion: (1) the purifying bath; (2) the prayer; (3) the portion set aside for the deity and its complete consumption in the fire; (4) the tasting of the entrails; (5) the sacrificial meal with the libation; and (6) the accompanying music.

All who were to participate in a sacrifice, pour a libation, or even engage in prayer, must first wash their hands. In later times, at least, this ceremony included the purifying of the whole person by the use of holy water. Murder barred a man from its use and, of course, from the sacrifice. A set form of prayer, which was pronounced by the priest and repeated after him by the person interested, accompanied all offerings of sacrifice.

The thighs, covered with a double layer of fat and bits of flesh cut from all parts of the victim, were burned as a choice portion for the deity, while

a libation of wine was poured over them. The burning etherealized the food for the gods and its savor curling about the smoke reached heaven. That this was the thought in early times is clear from the fact that in the *Rig Veda* the fire-god Agni is often represented as the bearer of the sacrifices to the gods. Among the Greeks also garments intended for the dead were consumed in the fire.

The common practice of tasting the inward parts, or vitals, meant for the Greeks a partaking of the victim's life, as may be seen from certain ancient sacrifices of the Semites. The religious feast, at the beginning and end of which a libation was poured, was in Homer an essential part of the sacrifice, and for centuries after was prominent in the religion of Greece. The young bride was introduced into her husband's clan by eating with its members a sacrificial meal. The communion idea is seen also in the Apaturia and in the practice of pilgrims carrying bits of the sacrifice from Delphi to their families.

Singing and dancing were a part of most sacrifices, and the slaughter of the victim was attended by music, usually that of the flute. Among the expiatory sacrifices we may mention the two persons offered at the Thargelia in behalf of the people of Athens. In most cases animals were substituted for human victims, or a few drops of blood were taken instead of the life.

4. "The Teaching of First-Year Latin—How Much and What," by Principal Paul H. Vernor, High School, Marshall, Mich.

We are overestimating the amount of Latin a pupil must have before taking up the second-year work, with the result that we sacrifice quality to quantity. First of all in pronunciation we should rely on imitation, and less on mere memory. We should teach quantities merely with a view to securing accuracy in pronunciation, laying special emphasis on penultimate vowels and vowels in terminations.

In the treatment of forms there is opportunity for slight economy in the elimination of all possible irregular and rare forms. Some forms are now taught, seemingly, more for the sake of completeness than for use in reading Latin, and are of such rare occurrence that they are forgotten before they are reached in the second-year work; for instance, the vocative in *i*, contract for *iz*, the accusive in *im* of the third declension, and others. The treatment of these is an unnecessary strain on the memory.

In the smaller schools especially, the teaching of syntax is largely hindered by the deficiency in the preparation of many of the pupils in English grammar, particularly on the part of those coming from the rural schools.

Syntax presents the largest opportunity for narrowing the year's work. In the syntax of nouns it is best to teach only those constructions which are clearly defined and easily understood, if possible making the name, without definition, suggest the construction. Only the simplest and easiest uses of

he subjunctive should be treated, merely enough to give a nucleus for later study. For example, do not distinguish substantive from pure clauses of purpose and result; also, be conservative in the introduction of those conjunctions which in some instances take the subjunctive and in others the indicative. As the result of the study of the conditions of the first book of Cæsar, I would omit conditional sentences and would treat under one general head all subjunctives which could be so classed, leaving fine distinctions, such as the subjunctive in expressions of wish, for a later year.

Some of our first-year Latin books and ninth-grade readers introduce a great many words into the vocabularies which are not met with in the second-year work, thus necessarily lessening the number of words which will be met in later reading. Those proper names which it is wise to introduce into the first year's work should be pronounced by imitation, and not by fixed rules; only the simplest of such rules should be taught.

While we admit that our aim is to read and not write Latin, I would protest against minimizing the importance of English-Latin exercises. For drill in forms and syntax such exercises have many points of superiority over Latin-English sentences.

Lastly, I would pay special attention to sentence structure. Herein lies one of our greatest difficulties in beginning the second-year work. Constant and careful analysis of complex sentences will avoid many complaints now made regarding the ninth-grader's preparation.

5. "The Teaching of First-Year Latin—Points to be Emphasized," by Miss Edith Emma Atkins, High School, Lansing, Mich.

The task of learning the forms of the language and systematizing this knowledge should be the chief work of the student during the first few months of the course. It is not sufficient that pupils should be able to recite paradigms easily and glibly. They should understand the relations denoted by the various noun and verb forms, and should be able to give the exact English equivalent for each form. Whatever the method of the text-book employed, it is possible for the instructor by daily drill and review to connect the student's knowledge, so that at the close of the year his understanding of forms will be connected and logical.

The student should become familiar with the most important rules of syntax, and should acquire skill in their application. Whatever the method of the text-book, the teacher should so aid the student to classify the different constructions to which he is introduced from time to time that at the close of the year his knowledge of syntax, like that of forms, may be comprehensive and logical. This study of syntax will be of great value to the pupil in his subsequent study of Latin, and will also give him a deeper insight into the structure of our own language.

In translating from Latin students should be required to use pure,

idiomatic English. Not only is this carefulness in regard to the English employed in translation essential in order that the pupil may have a firmer grasp of the Latin he is reading, but it also has its bearing upon the everyday English of the pupil.

Sight-reading is an invaluable aid in securing facility in translation. In exercises of this sort emphasis should be placed upon the constructions involved, and the method of working out the thought should be suggestive. In connection with sight-reading the meanings of new words should receive attention, in order that the young students may understand, early in the course, that new words are to be carefully noted and their meanings memorized.

The demand for accuracy and independent work in Latin writing should be insistent.

The fact that about two-thirds of the words in our language are akin to Latin words, renders the study of English cognates in connection with the acquisition of a Latin vocabulary a matter of immediate practical importance to all students.

6. "The Teaching of First-Year Latin—A Working Knowledge of Forms and Vocabulary," by Professor J. J. Schlicher, State Normal School, Terre Haute, Ind.

Professor Schlicher's paper is published in full; see pp. 396-405.

7. "The Excavations in the Roman Forum, 1898-1901," by Professor Albert R. Crittenden, Olivet College.

This paper will be published in full, with illustrations, in the archaeological journal recently founded in Washington, D.C., called *Records of the Past*. The following is an abstract which may be of interest to our readers.

The new researches in the Roman Forum begun by Signor Boni in the fall of 1898 had two chief objects: first, to classify the existing architectural fragments and assemble them in appropriate places; second, to carry the excavations to deeper levels than had hitherto been reached. The most important results of the excavations may be summarized as follows:

The débris has been removed from the area of the Comitium, revealing several pavements of different periods; the wall of the Curia has been laid bare, showing how the great door has been repeatedly raised. Several mediæval sarcophagi were found near the entrance, and several loculi, hewn in the wall of the Curia itself. Great interest was excited by the discovery, on the border-line between the Comitium and the Forum, of the so-called *Lapis Niger*, a pavement of black marble about thirteen feet square. Beneath this was found a much older group of monuments, consisting of two rectangular stone bases with molded plinths, a conical column, and a pyramidal pillar of tufa, both broken off at a height of about eighteen inches. The latter bears a very ancient Latin inscription in Greek letters.

The site of the Basilica Æmilia, formerly occupied by modern buildings,

has been excavated and the plan of the building made clear. Next the Forum was an arcade with heavy marble piers; back of this a row of *tabernae*, extending about 280 feet, closed in the rear by a thick wall of tufa. Beyond this was the great hall of the basilica, opening upon the Argiletum, and consisting of a nave about forty feet wide, and two aisles sixteen feet each in width. The columns between nave and aisles were of Africano and were arranged in two stories. The pavement is of costly colored marble, and upon it were found many melted coins and other evidences of fire. The marble piers in front of the *tabernae* were replaced at a late date by a row of red granite columns. A very ancient *cloaca* passes obliquely beneath the nave.

The foundations of the Regia have been carefully explored and accurately described. Two wells and a cylindrical cistern were discovered within the inclosure. The cistern is built of tufa blocks and is plastered on the inside. The entrance to the Regia was on the east side, where the threshold is plainly visible. Close to the south wall is a small pavement of tufa with a round platform of the same material, possibly the foundation of the Sacrarium Martis. An important fragment of the consular *fasti*, which were affixed to the outer wall of the Regia, has been discovered in a mediæval house upon the site of the Basilica Æmilia.

Signor Boni has subjected the foundations of the Temple of Vesta to a minute examination. A trapezoidal pit was discovered in the center of the concrete base, extending to the soil beneath. The upper layer of the foundation, formerly supposed to be mediæval, is now shown to be ancient. The marble plinths and pilasters found in 1877 probably belonged to the outer covering of the substruction, and supported the columns of the temple inclosure. Several architectural fragments have been found, including a piece of lacunar frieze. In its general outlines the temple probably closely resembled the well-known bas-relief in the Uffizi Gallery at Florence, except that the roof was steeper.

Among other interesting finds made within the area of the Forum may be mentioned the row of eight low, arched chambers of tufa reticulate work, supposed by Boni to be the Rostra of Cæsar, but which may be only a supporting wall for the Clivus Capitolinus; an ancient *cloaca* (whose upper course was already known) crossing the west end of the Forum; a complicated network of drains between the Temple of Saturn and the Temple of Concord; a long, underground passage running lengthwise of the Forum and crossed at right angles by two similar passages; the round concrete base of an altar in the semicircular niche in front of the Temple of Julius Cæsar; the beautiful pavement of colored marbles beneath the later raised pavement in some of the rooms of the House of the Vestals; and a large number of gold coins of the late empire found hidden in a drain in the same building.

The excavation of the area formerly occupied by the church of S. Maria Liberatrice, on the south side of the Forum, has also yielded many valuable results. Aside from the extremely interesting group of monuments connected

with the Fountain of Juturna, it is now apparent that the Nova Via did not run around the whole north side of the Palatine, but, in imperial times at least, was blocked by buildings near the Temple of Castor. The building at the rear of the Temple of Augustus was probably an imperial library connected with the temple; in the sixth century it became the church of S. Maria Antiqua. It consists of a great quadrangular court opening on the south upon a large atrium or *quadriporticus*. At the farther end of this are three rectangular rooms, the middle and largest one containing the apse of the church. The walls of this *quadriporticus* are covered with paintings which are of great value in the study of early Christian art. Beneath this building are traces of earlier imperial structures with a different orientation.

In the fall of 1901 and the spring of 1902 a prehistoric necropolis was unearthed on the Sacred Way near the Temple of Antoninus and Faustina. It contained both cinerary tombs and graves dating as far back as the seventh or eighth century B. C. The cinerary urns bear some resemblance to the hut-urns previously discovered in various parts of Latium.

8. "Imperial Ethics in the Restoration of Roman Public Buildings," by Dr. Duane Reed Stuart, University of Michigan.

Dr. Stuart discussed the practice of the emperor Augustus and his successors in perpetuating the names of previous builders associated with public buildings restored by them. The paper will be published later.

9. "The Mastery of English by the Study of Latin," by Principal Lawrence C. Hull, Shortridge High School, Indianapolis, Ind.

This paper will be published in full in the SCHOOL REVIEW.

10. "The Bee in Ancient Literature and Mythology," by Miss Winifred C. Daboll, St. Johns, Mich.

We find abundant evidence that the ancients felt especial interest in bees. Treatises were written upon them at a time so remote that all traces of the earlier works have vanished. Aristotle, Virgil, and Pliny wrote of bees; and the epithets applied to them lead us to think they had an interest for the ancients deeper than that felt by our naturalists. In confirmation of this we have the fact that various deities were represented by the bee, and that there are many myths associating the insect with different divinities, notably Zeus, Apollo, Demeter, and Dionysus.

The most interesting of these myths is that which associates the bee with Zeus's birth-place on the island of Crete. This myth, indigenous to Crete, is recorded by Virgil, Antoninus Liberalis, and Lactantius. There was probably an etiological influence in the growth of it; we are told that a cavern in this island was infested by bees of extraordinary ferocity, and as Zeus was supposed to have been born on the island, the natives quite naturally considered so well-guarded a place as the birth-place of the divinity.



The unexpected appearance of a swarm of bees was regarded by the ancients as an omen; Pliny, Juvenal, Cicero, Livy, and Tacitus cite this as a portent of coming evil. An exception to the general belief is found in the pretty fancy that a swarm of bees settling on the lips of an infant foretells its eloquence. This story is told of Hesiod, Pindar, Sophocles, Plato, Virgil, Lucan, and Ambrosius. A survival of the belief lingers in modern Greece.

The bee myth is not confined to Greek and Roman mythology; there are similar myths in the Hindoo and Scandinavian mythologies, and remarkable survivals in the folklore of modern European countries.

The most interesting of the ideas of the ancients regarding the bee was that underlying their use of it as a symbol of immortality. We have a record of this, not only in literature, but also in the ornaments of gold found in the graves of the dead. According to Varro, Virgil, Ovid, Porphyrio, and others, it was believed that swarms of bees were produced from the dead body of a bullock. From this belief it was but a step to consider the bee as representing the life of the dead animal itself; and hence to the association of the insect with immortality.

II. "The Study of the Classics as a Preparation for the Teaching of German," by Dr. Warren W. Florer, University of Michigan.

The speaker first emphasized the view that the ultimate aim of collegiate training should be, not to crowd into the student as much knowledge as possible within the college course, but to give a broad and thorough foundation in order that after graduation he may possess the power to think and work independently.

"The importance of Greek and Latin as correlated studies for the German teacher," said Dr. Florer, "is established by several facts. In the first place, it is often found that the graduates of the smaller colleges who come with Greek and Latin as their main preparation are able to cope with, and even excel, in their own subject university students who present larger quantities of German. As a matter of fact, the holders of German fellowships of leading institutions have, in the majority of cases, had classical preparation. The prominent teachers of German are either products of the *Gymnasium*, or took the A.B. degree at a time when the attainment of this degree involved a knowledge of Greek. No less than 75 per cent. of the German students of the first rank in my classes have been classical students."

The limitations frequently found in the classical preparation were also mentioned: too much mechanical translation, too much grammatical routine work, too little intelligent reading, and too little interpretation. The German student does not need to remember grammatical details if he can be initiated into the fundamental ideas which make classical literature alive today. A few examples were given illustrating the potent influence of the classics upon Lessing, Goethe, and Schiller; and in this connection the speaker cited

the powerful influence of the Old and New Testaments from the very beginnings of German literature down to Gustav Frenssen.

Dr. Florer was of the opinion that a foundation for the comparative study of Greek and Latin and German literature could best be laid, if carefully arranged courses were conducted along broad humanistic lines throughout the college course. He also touched upon the influence of the teacher's personality. The student should not confine himself to too few men in, or outside of, his own department.

The conclusion of the paper was that the teacher of German is better equipped for the most important aspects of his work—ability to pursue independent investigation, and the power of intelligent exposition in the classroom—after having enjoyed the benefits of properly correlated classical study.

12. "Remarks on the Study of the Classics Fifty Years Ago," by President James B. Angell, University of Michigan.

President Angell spoke for half an hour in his usual happy vein; but with characteristic modesty he declined to assent to the publication of his reminiscences, which were made all the more suggestive and delightful by the personal element in them.

13. "The Boy Poet Sulpicius—A Tragedy of Roman Education," by Professor J. Raleigh Nelson, Lewis Institute, Chicago.

This paper is published in the *SCHOOL REVIEW*; see pp. 384-98.

14. "Ithaca or Leucas?" by Professor W. G. Manly, University of Missouri.

Professor Manly urged strong objections against the recent theory of Dr. Dörpfeld identifying the Ithaca of the *Odyssey* with Leucas. His treatment of the subject appears in full in *The University of Missouri Studies*, Vol. II, No. 1.

15. "The Fountain of Juturna in the Roman Forum," by Miss Helen Louise Bishop, Rockford College.

This paper will be published, with illustrations, in an early number of *Records of the Past*. The following abstract will be of interest:

During the summer of 1900 Signor Boni, director of the excavations in the Roman Forum, tore down the mediæval church of Santa Maria Liberatrice on the north side of the Palatine, and brought to light the remains of the Fountain of Juturna. The divinity to whom the fountain and the surrounding structures were dedicated, though not mentioned in early Roman literature, was worshiped from a remote period as the nymph who presided over healing waters and bestowed benefits upon mankind; a worship which was handed down by tradition and by the association of the divinity with

springs, until the myth found expression in occasional passages in the Latin authors.

The connection of Juturna with the Dioscuri is suggested in the various accounts of the battle of Lake Regillus, as well as in the location of the temple of the twin gods in close proximity to the Fountain of Juturna.

The significance of the various aspects of the legends in regard to Juturna will be seen in a consideration of the remains in the Forum, a group of monuments of the elaborate design of the imperial period. An accurate and detailed description is given in the *Notizie degli Scavi* for February, 1901, from which the article on Juturna by Signor Boni has been reprinted under the title "Il Sacratio di Iuturna."

The sacred precinct was connected with the Palatine by an inclined ramp, below which were several small chambers, whose use is not fully determined. A statue of Æsculapius, found in one of them, suggests that the chambers served as a sanctuary of the god of medicine, and that here the sick were brought to sleep, as in the temple at Epidaurus. The orientation of the whole area may be seen in a fragment of the Forma Urbis, the "marble plan" of Rome in the time of Caracalla. In this plan the fountain is represented as it is seen in the remains: a large square basin, lined with white marble, having in its bottom two openings through which the water springs from the earth. In the center of the basin is a rectangular platform, also faced with marble, on which probably stood a group of the Dioscuri. Fragments of the group have been discovered—enough to identify it beyond question as the twin brothers standing beside their horses. The marble lining has been restored to its place in the basin, enabling us to picture in imagination the group in its center, surrounded by the sacred water, a noble representation of the legend of Juturna and the Dioscuri.

Near the fountain a small shrine was discovered, in which may have stood a statue of Juturna; the dedication to her is seen in an inscription on the frieze. Before the shrine is a well, filled with water from the fountain; a hollow cylinder of white marble forms the mouth of the well. The water of both well and fountain was undoubtedly devoted chiefly to religious usage in the imperial times; in earlier days, however, it probably served for secular purposes. An altar to Juturna stood in front of the well, bearing on its face two figures in relief—Juturna saying farewell to Turnus, a scene from the story as told by Virgil. Another altar was found lying on its side in the fountain, evidently dedicated to the Dioscuri. The four sides are adorned with figures in relief: Jupiter, the ruler of the heavens; Diana Lucifera, the protector of virgins; Leda, the mother of the Dioscuri; and the twin brothers, who were worshiped at the fountain of Juturna as well as at their own temple.

In the Middle Ages the fountain sank into obscurity; the spring came to be regarded with dread, and the church which was built over it was given the name of Santa Maria Liberatrice, "she who liberates from purgatory."

16. "Conditional Sentences in Greek with the Future Indicative," by Dr. F. O. Bates, Central High School, Detroit, Mich.

This paper embodied the results of long and painstaking investigation, to which no brief statement could do justice. It will be published in full later.

17. "In the Footsteps of Cæsar in Gaul—The Battle with Ariovistus, and the Battles at the Aisne and the Sambre," by Principal George R. Swain, High School, Bay City, Mich.

This paper was illustrated by forty-five stereopticon slides.

#### I. THE BATTLE WITH ARIOVISTUS.

To one who has traversed the country about Besançon, the terror of the Roman soldiers, described by Cæsar in the *Gallic War* (I. xxxix), does not seem wholly groundless, as the country to the northeast is much broken with hills and ravines, while the valley of the Doubs is well-nigh a cañon. Had his soldiers been ever so bold, Cæsar's detour was the move of a cautious general. But long before reaching Belfort, the natural pass from France to the Rhine, the country becomes only slightly hilly, in fact, almost rolling.

The hill of Plettig, on which (according to Colonel Stoffel) the conference with Ariovistus took place, is today a low eminence of several acres in extent isolated from other hills. The cultivation of two thousand years may well have both diminished its height and have filled up to some degree the surrounding depressions.

The final battle took place between Zellenberg and Ostheim. The whole section is fertile and is in a high state of cultivation, sugar beets being one of the main crops. From Zellenberg, as one looks across to the blue hills east of the Rhine, it is hard to realize that in the beautiful plain below took place the desperate clinch of Roman and German. The wooded Vosges mountains wall the horizon on the west. One should have Stoffel's vivid description at hand as he surveys the scene. The foot-hills are quite steep enough to make credible the idea that Ariovistus could lead his forces along the upper slopes in view of the Romans without fear of attack, while the wily German was executing his flank movement with the aim of cutting Cæsar's communications.

#### II. THE BATTLE AT THE AISNE.

This, too, is in a highly cultivated section, nearly all the site being covered in summer with heavy crops of grain and beets. The elevations are less than the shading on our common maps would lead us to suppose. The height of the ridge now is barely enough to enable one to see over the trees along the Miette to the hills beyond. The Miette itself is a mere brook today, the swamp being all drained; indeed, at the time of my visit (the first week of September) there was water in only one or two places. It may,

however, have been diverted for irrigation higher up the stream. The Aisne has shifted its channel not a little since Cæsar's time, and now flows much nearer the ridge occupied by the camp. Much of the water is now diverted into the canal which parallels its channel, so that the river, in summer at least, can easily be waded in numerous places. The site is a simple one to understand, and, if the student is a bicyclist, can be thoroughly studied in two hours' time.

### III. THE BATTLE AT THE SAMBRE.

This is a far more difficult site to study than the last, partly from the fact that it is impossible to get high enough to have a bird's-eye view, but more because so much of the battlefield is now covered with dwellings and factories—it is practically a continuous city all the way from Maubeuge to the point where the Nervii rushed across the river. However, by going along both banks of the stream (which is now provided with locks and used as a canal) one at last gets his bearings. The banks on the north side are still steep and wooded where there are no houses. The forest on the other side has long since disappeared, save on the top of the hill where a French fort lies in ambush. The slopes to the river are steep enough to make one realize that Cæsar's praise of the valor of the Nervii was well earned.

The country is even now fenced with hedges made exactly as described in the *Commentaries*—and I can testify that the brambles have thorns not far from half an inch in length. In many places even a small boy could hardly wriggle through. Sometimes these hedges are not kept pruned, and so reach a height of fifteen or twenty feet. They would be as much of a barrier today to cavalry as in the time of Cæsar.